

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the final Office Action of September 19, 2005.

Reexamination, reconsideration, and allowance of the application and all presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this paper, claims 1, 4-10, 21-29, and 31 remain pending in this application. Claims 29 and 31 are directly amended herein, and claims 30, 32, and 33 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. It is believed that the foregoing amendments add no new matter to the present application.

Interview Summary

Applicant wishes to express his sincere appreciation for the time that Examiner Nguyen spent with Applicant's undersigned Agent and Attorney during a telephone discussion on December 8, 2005, and other occasions regarding the outstanding Office Action. In the telephone conversations, no exhibits were discussed, and claims 1 and 29-33 were discussed with reference to *Greene* (U.S. Patent No. 6,646,639). The Examiner indicated that claim 1, in its present form, is allowable. Applicant's Agent and Attorney suggested that the portions of *Greene* cited by the Office Action in rejecting claims 31-33 did not appear to be supported by U.S. Patent No. 5,579,455, the parent of *Greene*. Thus, such subject matter does not appear to have a filing date prior to that of the instant application and cannot, therefore, be used to reject claims 31-33. The Examiner agreed. Further, the amendments herein incorporate at least some features of claims 31-33 into claim 29, and the Examiner seemed to indicate that such amendments would make claim 29 allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully


requests that the Examiner carefully consider the amendments set forth herein and allow all presently pending claims to issue.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that all outstanding objections and rejections be withdrawn and that this application and all presently pending claims be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this paper, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicant's undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

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